labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economic policy as also to provide for greater welfare of the working class.

**Increase in the wages of the workers under minimum wages act**

504. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister
of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an all out increase in the Salaries of Government servants whereas there has been no such increase in the monthly wages of the workers coming under Minimum Wages Act;-and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to ensure increase in the monthly wages of the workers in the organised and unorganised sectors with immediate effect?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAWANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been an increase in the salaries of Central Government employees w.e.f. January 1, 1996 following acceptable by Government of the recom me delations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission.

(b) Wages in the organised sector are largely determined through bipartite negotiation and settlements. The wages in the scheduled employments in the unorganised sector are fixed & revised under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The State Governments/U.T. administrations have been requested to revise wages for scheduled employments under the Minimum Wages Act, every two years or on a rise of 50 points in Consumer Pricer Index number, whichever is earlier.

**Workers partnership in unorganised and organised sectors**

505. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANORA
REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been undertaken in respect of workers in unorganised sector to increase their partnership with the organised sector workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government proposed to do so to increase nation's production?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

**Unemployment in the Country**

506. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed youth in the country as on 31st March, 1998 as per the enrolment made in the live register of the states and the Central Employment Exchanges;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any time bound programme to remove unemployment from the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The number of job-seekers; all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, who were on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on 28th February, 1998 (latest data available) was 390.67 lakh.

(b) and (c) The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture arid rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty.

Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors and sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterized by higher rater of unemployment and underemployment.

**देश में बाल श्रम**

507. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :**

**श्री रामगोपाल यादव :**

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय देश में ऐसे कुल कितने बाल श्रमिक हैं जिनकी आयु 14 वर्ष या इससे कम हैं;

(ख) सरकार ने अब तक इनमें से कितने बाल श्रमिकों को मुक्त करा कर उनके भोजन, आवास और शिक्षा संबंधी उचित सुविधाओं का प्रबंध किया है; और

(ग) शेष बाल श्रमिकों को मुक्त करा कर उन्हें समुचित जीवन जीने का अवसर मुहैया कराए जाने संबंधी समयावधि और सरकारी कार्यक्रम क्या है ?